GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7682
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2000
HERBAL MEDICINES
DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any regulatory authority is functioning for sale of herbal medicines as food supplements;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the herbal compounds are being marked as health foods without minimum WHO standard; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to prevent such misuse of herbal medicines?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a)to(d) A number of products termed as Dietary Supplements/Nutritional Supplements/Health foods etc., are being sold in the market without medicinal claims. The Food Health Authorities of all States and their Analyst have been also asked to oversee the fulfillment of prescribed instructions on the subject, including labeling requirement. The sale of food supplements without any medicinal claims is regulated under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. A mechanism for regulating neutraceuticals/Dietary supplements which are neither conventional foods nor drugs in the strict sense has to be evolved.